REMARKS

This communication is a full response to the aforementioned final Office Action dated February 15, 2008 and the Advisory Action dated June 24, 2008. By this communication, claims 1-20 remain pending. Claims 1-6, 10-13, 15-17, and 19 are amended. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Interview Summary

Applicant thanks Examiner Hussain for the telephonic interview conducted on July 15, 2008. In the interview, the "a first transmission portion sending a mail from a client to a server for inquiring about a folder structure at the server; a second transmission portion, at said server, transmitting the folder structure to said client by mail in response to the inquiry mail sent from said client" subject matter present in representative claim 1 was primarily discussed. The Examiner relied substantially upon arguments previously made on pages 2 and 4-5 of the Office Action mailed on February 15, 2008 in arguing that the *Iwasaki* reference (Japanese Patent No. 10307826) teaches the above-recited subject matter. The Examiner clarified his broad reading of the claimed "folder structure" in pointing out his interpretation of the *Iwasaki* reference as teaching the completion of a registration of a document request, which has an embedded folder path, as an acknowledgment of a file structure by the server to the client. However, the Examiner agreed that if the claims were amended to recite "folder tree structure" to specifically provide the type of tree structure in accordance with the specification, then the claims as amended should

overcome the § 102 rejection. Applicant has amended the independent claims as suggested by the Examiner.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 2, 10, 15, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Iwasaki et* al. (Japanese Patent No. 10307826, hereinafter *Iwasaki*). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As discussed above, and as agreed by the Examiner, *Iwasaki* does not disclose at least "a first transmission portion sending a mail from a client to a server for inquiring about a *folder tree structure at the server*, a second transmission portion, at said server, transmitting the folder tree structure to said client by mail in response to the inquiry mail sent from said client" as recited in amended claim 1 and as similarly recited in amended claims 10 and 17.

Claims 2 and 15, dependent from either independent claim 1 or 10, are patentable for the reasons stated above with respect to claims 1, 10, and 17, as well as for their own merits.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to independent claims 1, 10, and 17 and all claims dependent from them.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3-9, 11-14, 16, and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Iwasaki* in view of *Mutton et al.* (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0147840, hereinafter *Mutton*). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As discussed above, *Iwasaki* fails to disclose or suggest all of the features as recited in claims 1, 10, and 17, the independent claims from which the rejected claims depend. Further, *Mutton* fails to overcome the noted deficiencies of *Iwasaki*. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection to claims 3-9, 11-14, 16, and 18-20 be withdrawn.
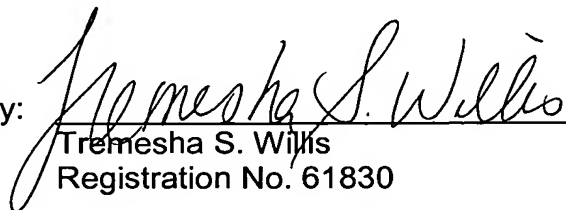
Conclusion

Based on at least the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that claims 1-20 are allowable, and that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant requests a favorable examination and consideration of the instant application. In the event the instant application can be placed in even better form, Applicant requests that the undersigned attorney be contacted at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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